automatically grant licence to the schools to which such facility is given under MPLADS if the school or the MP informs that such facility is given; and

(d) whether such simplification would lead to popularisation of HAM activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, under the MPLADS, Amateur Radio Sets to duly licensed Amateur Radio Clubs in schools and colleges can be provided.

(b) The existing procedure is simple. The School or College can authorise any official, who is a licensed amateur, in an individual capacity, to get a licence for establishment and operation of an Amateur Radio Station in the School or College or an Institute.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b), above.

Inadequate Gas Supply by ONGC and OIL to Private Industries in Assam

917. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Namrup unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) has been compelled to reduce production of fertilizers during the last year and this year because of the failure of ONGC and OIL to supply natural gas to HPC as per commitment;

(b) whether ONGC and OIL are making fresh commitment to supply gas to private industries in Assam while failing to augment gas supply to the public sector unit at Namrup; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to ensure the required amount of gas to HFC Namrup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) As against the allocation of 2.22 MMSCMD, the supply to the HFC, Namrup was 0.92 MMSCMD in 1994-95 and 0.82 in the current year.

(b) ONGC and OIL are supplying gas only to units which have been allocated gas by the Government.

The supply to HFCL is being increased in the short term by connecting up sources of low pressure gas. OIL is examining the proposals to develop its free gas reserves.

Introduction of Mechanised Mopcds for Postmen

918. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced mechanised mopeds for postmen;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether gradually it would be introduced in different States also; and

(d) if so, the time schedule of the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The scheme has been initially implemented in a limited way on experimental basis in Delhi, Bombay and Hyderabad for a period of one year. According to the scheme, Department has acquired mopeds on lease basis and provided them to postmen in some beats where address sites are at a comparatively great distance from each other especially in newly developing residential areas. It is proposed to review the scheme after a period of time and extend it to other places depending upon the results of the review.